

March 21, 2007

Members 2005-2007

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Land Tawney 720 Strand Avenue Missoula, MT 59801 TO: Members, House Fish, Wildlife, & Parks Committee

RE: Senate Bill 115

Mr. Chairman and committee members, as Chair of the Private Land/Public Wildlife Council, I would like to voice the Council's support for Senate Bill 115, a bill that directs money collected by the courts as restitituion for certain types of fish and game violations to be credited to Fish, Wildlife, & Parks for hunter education and enforcement.

Over the past year and a half, throughout the Council's deliberations, members have voiced general support for increased enforcement of fish and game laws as a way to help those Montana landowners, hunters, and outfitters who engage in the legal pursuit of Montana's fish and game resources.

The criminal acts of poachers and those who assist them in their illegal activities hurt all Montanans, and the Council felt that crediting court-ordered fine restitution to the FWP agency could help provide for better enforcement and education as a deterrent to these types of activities.

The Council's recommendation to support this legislation was reached through unanimous consensus among Council members. On behalf of the Council, I ask that you support passage of Senate Bill 115.

Sincerely,

Connie Eissinger, Chair

C/O Field Services Division P.O.Box 200701, Helena, Montana 59620